

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:880
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2007
TRANSPARENCY IN THE BUDGET MAKING
Senthil Dr. Raman

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government provides only limited information to the public on the budget making and financial activities;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government is contemplating by bring more transparency and participation in the budget making process;
- (d) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL)

(a, b, c & d): The process of budget making involves interalia, consideration of policies having financial implications, by the concerned administrative ministries, their review and approval through a formal structured process by the competent authority, inclusion in the budget estimates, approval by Cabinet, and final submission of the Budget to the Parliament. Formal meetings are held with experts, various interest groups representing Industry, Trade, Agriculture, Labour etc.,. The active participation of different interest groups and individuals in the budget making process are also expressed through a large number of representations and memoranda as well as through public debate generated in workshops/seminars and via the print/electronic media focusing on the Budget. Leaders of Legislature Party are also requested to send their suggestions either through their members on the Parliamentary Consultative Committee of Finance Ministry or separately, to encourage communication and elicit inputs on policies that shape the Budget.

The Budget documents presented to Parliament contains exhaustive information and explanatory statements regarding proposals for revenue and expenditure during the financial year, past trends of receipts and expenditure etc, Outcome Budget, Annual Report and Detailed Demands for Grants presented by various Ministries/Departments give financial and physical targets and achievements under the various programmes concerned with that Ministry/Department. These documents, together with Economic Survey, Supplementary Demands for Grants, Finance Accounts, Audit Reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India give relevant budgetary details/financial activities of a given year. While the main budget documents can be accessed from the Finance Ministry website at <http://fmmin.nic/> the others an be accessed from the individual Ministries/Departments/CAG as the case may be.

Enlarging the participation in budget making process and enhancing transparency in budget making/documentation is an ongoing process subject to the applicable Constitutional and legal framework and Parliamentary conventions.

(e) Does not arise.